

# STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

## Agenda Consideration

**TOPIC:** ES2006 Naming Committee

**ITEM NO:** 9A

**PREPARED BY:** Michele Leith,  
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**MEETING:** March 14, 2006

March 28, 2006

**ACTION DATE:** March 28, 2006

**INFORMATION ONLY:**

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**ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT:** That the School Board take action on one of the school names for ES2006 being recommended by the 2006 Elementary School Naming Committee.

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### KEY POINTS:

- ◆ On October 28, 2003 the School Board approved Guidelines for the Naming of Stafford County Public Schools.
- ◆ Guidelines #2 and #3 provide for a school naming committee to include the new elementary school Principal, as Chairperson, the School Board member for the district in which the new school is located, the Supervisor for the district, and a representative of the Stafford County Historical Society. (*Guidelines Attached*)
- ◆ Guideline #4 tasks the school naming committee with providing one preferred name and an alternate to the School Board for approval within forty-five days from the first meeting of the committee. The guideline further provides that "elementary schools will be named for the street on which the school faces, the historical or current name of the district or community in which the school is located or after a Stafford County resident of historical significance".
- ◆ The 2006 Elementary School Naming Committee, including Nancy Coll, Principal of ES2006, Joe Brito, Supervisor for the Hartwood District, Doreen Phillips, School Board Member for the Hartwood District and Jane Conner, Stafford County Historical Society met to discuss potential names for the 2006 Elementary School.
- ◆ The committee presents two recommended names for the 2006 Elementary School. The committee members felt they could support either name, therefore they have

decided to submit both names rather than a recommended name and an alternate. The two names recommended by the 2006 Elementary School Naming Committee are: Anthony Burns and George Mason. (*Biographies Attached*)

- ◆ The committee supports the naming of ES2006 after either candidate for their historical contributions and service to the community in which the new school is located. The recommendation conforms to the Guidelines for the Naming of Stafford County Public Schools.
- ◆ A recommendation for action will be presented at the March 28, 2006 School Board meeting.
- ◆ Citizen Comments received through Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> were sent to the School Board on Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>. Additional Citizen Comments received after Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> will be provided to the School Board on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SCHOOL BOARD GOAL: #5** - Provide facilities that promote student learning and community support.

**#6** -Introduce programs to enhance employee status, within the school division and the community at large, so that employees are aware of their value to school and community.

**FUNDING SOURCE:** N/A

**AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE:** Guidelines for the Naming of Stafford County Public Schools: approved 10/28/03  
*February 2006*

## GUIDELINES FOR THE NAMING OF STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. When a new school site is purchased or a planning project for a new school is initiated, the school will be referred to by type (Elementary, Middle, High) and year of anticipated completion/opening.
2. Once a Principal is appointed for a new school, the Principal will become Chairman of a committee to name the new school.
3. The committee will include the Principal as Chairman, the School Board member for the district in which the new school will be located, the Supervisor for the district, and a representative of the Stafford Historical Society.
4. The committee will determine a preferred name for the school and one alternate name within forty-five days of the first meeting of the committee based on the following criteria:
  - Elementary schools will be named for the street on which the school faces, the historical or current name of the district or community in which the school is located or after a Stafford County resident of historical significance.
  - Middle Schools will be named for Stafford County Educators who have made significant contributions to Stafford County Schools.
  - High Schools will be named for the street on which the school faces or for the historical or current name of the district or community in which the school is located or after a Stafford County resident of historical significance.
5. School names are often strong symbols of identification for local communities. Therefore the committee should make community consultation an integral part of the naming process.
6. The preferred school name and the alternate school name will be brought before the School Board at the first meeting following the forty-five day committee term.
7. At their discretion, the Stafford County School Board may name any athletic field, special use facility or designated area within a school after a former Stafford County Schools employee or other person of historical importance who has made significant contributions to education in Stafford County.

***Approved: Stafford County School Board 10/28/03***

## **Biographies for ES2006 Naming Recommendations**

- ◆ **Anthony Burns** was born a slave in Stafford around 1834. There were 13 children in his family. He and his father and brothers worked in the Robertson Stone Quarry, site of the present day subdivision of Austin Ridge. (Stone from this quarry went toward the construction of the U.S. Capitol.) Anthony and his family belonged to the Suttle family. After Mr. Suttle's death, Mrs. Suttle sold some of "Tony's" siblings. After Mrs. Suttle's death, her son, Charles Suttle owned Anthony. Charles rented Tony to a Stafford sawmill and other places in the county. When Tony was about twenty years old he escaped to Richmond and stowed away on a ship which traveled to Massachusetts. He thought he was escaping to freedom since Massachusetts was a free state. However the Fugitive Slave Act mandated runaway slaves be recaptured and returned to their owner's state. This law faced its first challenge when police captured Burns. The famous Richard Henry Dana Jr, was Anthony's attorney. The nationally-known case put the spotlight upon this Staffordian and over 50,000 Bostonians favoring abolition rallied in the streets. The trial decided that Burns be returned to Virginia. Later on, Burns was sold to a North Carolina slave dealer; however, a group of Bostonians raised enough money to buy Burns' freedom. Anthony attended Oberlin College in Ohio and later became a minister in Canada. It is thought that Anthony Burns was the first black from Stafford to get a college education.
  
- ◆ **George Mason** was the principal author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the first Virginia Constitution. These documents were the direct foundations of the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the United States Constitution. Mason was a direct descendant of two Stafford county founders, George Mason I and Gerard Fowke, making him a fourth generation Staffordian. He was born in Dogue's Neck of then Stafford County in 1725, which today is part of Fairfax County. He later lived at Chopawamsic Farm in Northern Virginia, near the present day USMC base. While living in Stafford, Mason came under the tutelage of his uncle and guardian, John Mercer. (His father died at an early age.) Mercer was a noted lawyer who lived at Marlborough Point, and reputedly possessed the largest library in the Dominion of Virginia, providing Mason an unexcelled education. As an adult, he built Gunston Hall in Fairfax County using Aquia stone from Stafford as architectural trim. (Gunston Hall is named for the Fowke ancestral home, Gunston, in old Staffordshire, England.) Mason served as a delegate from Virginia to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He was one of three delegates who refused to sign the Constitution because it did not first guarantee the rights of the people. He also served as Stafford County's delegate to the Virginia Ratification Convention of 1788, where he helped assure the adoption of a federal Bill of Rights. He died in 1792 at Gunston Hall.